

From: Bernier, Robert P
To: OPS master distribution list
Subject: 01 Message from the Event Commander
Date: Monday, February 14, 2022 1:20:58 PM

Unclassified

Good afternoon all,

Since the start of the demonstration 16 days ago, the OPS has been working hand in hand with our partners in the OPP, RCMP and other various municipal police services 24 / 7. As the demonstration and our response have evolved, and as the level of involvement of our partner agencies has changed, it has become important to review and modify our command and control structure. With this in mind, please be advised that effective immediately, an updated organization structure is taking effect until such a time that demonstration activities in Ottawa cease.

Together with the OPP and the RCMP, we announced yesterday the establishment of an enhanced Integrated Command Centre (ICC) to enhance our ability to effectively respond and make the most efficient use of additional resources that our policing partners are providing. The Ottawa Police Service remains the lead of this operation. Moving forward, A/Deputy Chief Trish Ferguson will remain the Strategic Commander and I have been appointed the Event Commander as overall command of the ICC.

It's not lost on me how difficult the past two weeks have been for all of you. I know our service has been stretched thin, and everyone is working long hours for many days in a row and in challenging weather conditions. All members have stepped up, and I appreciate everyone's dedication and commitment to this unprecedented situation.

While we continue to negotiate a peaceful demobilization, we ask for your patience and understanding as we maintain operations in a dynamic environment leveraging all available resources and intelligence to return Ottawa to a state of normalcy. I know it can be very frustrating and sometimes confusing not having a full line of sight on this operation but please trust that your Integrated Command Team have a plan and are working with all specialty sections and partners to resolve this matter in the best way possible. We are working at improving our daily communication efforts to officers when deploying to ensure all are properly informed.

As of yesterday, I've approved an overall plan that will support us through to the end of the demonstrations.

Mission Statement

Using an integrated response, the Ottawa Police and policing partners will keep the peace, enforce legislation, and maintain public safety for the duration of the Ottawa Truck Demonstration, with the utmost respect to the individuals Charter of Rights and Freedoms with priority

on community and emergency services personnel safety and wellbeing.

Main Action Plan

To de-escalate and negotiate the peaceful resolution and demobilization of the truck demonstration.

We recognize that there has been significant public pressure to end the demonstration. We are also aware of the high risk, and volatile crowd that officers on the ground are dealing with. I want to remind all officers engaged in and around the demonstration that you have full discretion to take appropriate action on any offences as laid out in various legislation and orders, but when possible consultation with your command would be recommended given the dynamics of the situation we're in.

Remain Vigilant

Demonstrators have displayed aggressive behavior towards police, including refusing to follow directions, overwhelming officers, and otherwise subverting enforcement efforts.

Do not let your guard down and remain vigilant when engaged in the protest or when engaging with protesters away from the protest site. Our first priority remains officer and public safety.

We continue to monitor intelligence gathered from our members, social media and other police services to ensure we know exactly what we're dealing with on the ground.

We ask you to wear your full Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and have your half-mask available for your safety. Wear a medical mask and eye protection.

Replenish your PPE

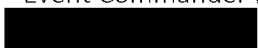
If you require fresh medical masks, you can obtain those through the Staff Sergeant's desk, which will have a supply. If you need to obtain any other replacements or replenishment of your PPE, please email ppest@ottawapolice.ca. All demonstration PPE-related requests will be expedited, so please indicate this in your email.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me through your chain of command. (Given the high volume of emails coming daily, this is not the best way to message me.)

Thank you for your continued patience, dedication and support in these very challenging times.

Rob

A/Supt. Rob Bernier, MOM
Ottawa Police Service
Event Commander (ICC)



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